

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059605
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059605

FOR SIMONS FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, RO

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL/INFORMAL

1. MONDALE/GIOSAN LETTER. THE LETTER IN QUESTION IS A RESPONSE TO AN OLD (NOVEMBER 3, 1977) LETTER FROM GIOSAN TO MONDALE, INFORMING MONDALE (IN HIS SENATE ROLE) OF THE FORMATION OF THE ROMANIAN CSCE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HEADED BY PUNGAN. GIOSAN ALSO REFERRED TO THE VIENNA PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON CSCE SCHEDULED FOR MAY. MONDALE'S REPLY THANKS GIOSAN FOR HIS LETTER AND SAYS IT HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE U.S. COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. WE NEVER RECEIVED A COMEBACK OF THE SIGNED VERSION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE BUT ARE POUCHING YOU COPIES OF THE INCOMING AND OUR DRAFT REPLY. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE. AS A NEXT STEP, OUR CSCE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING A FOLLOW-UP LETTER FROM FASCELL TO PUNGAN. STILL NO READ-OUT AVAILABLE, BY THE WAY, OF THE FASCELL-
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PUNGAN MEETING. OBVIOUSLY PUNGAN KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING WHEN HE ASKED FOR A TETE-A-TETE.

2. NICOLAE'S HEALTH. HE WAS IN HOSPITAL FOR SEVERAL DAYS LAST WEEK, DIAGNOSIS STILL UNKNOWN TO US BUT APPARENTLY RELATED TO FATIGUE AND HEART TROUBLE.

3. CEAUSESCU VISIT. WE ARE STRUCK BY THE CONCATENATION OF NEGATIVE FORCES COMING INTO PLAY. WITH MACOVESCU AND NICOLAE ILL, A NEW FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER, AND PUNGAN APPARENTLY NOT WANTING TO GET DEEPLY INVOLVED, WE ARE A BIT CONCERNED ABOUT HOW THE GROUNDWORK WILL BE LAID FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT. AT THIS END, IONITA IS THROWING HIMSELF INTO THE BREACH, BUT HE DOES NOT STRIKE US AS A PILLAR OF STRENGTH.

4. RESTRUCTURING THE ECONOMY. WE WONDER HOW YOUR ASSESSMENT OF CEAUSESCU'S FEBRUARY SPEECH AT THE BUCHAREST HEAVY MACHINES PLANT IS COMING ALONG, AND HOW THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PERSONNEL SHIFTS FIT IN WITH THIS THEME.

5. WAR COLLEGE VISIT. THE WAR COLLEGE GROUP VISITING ROMANIA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A SESSION WITH THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE, BUT HAS HELD OFF ASKING FOR A MEETING UNTIL THE GOR SAYS THE VISIT IS ALL RIGHT. THEY ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. SINCE THIS VISIT IS NOT A NEW DEPARTURE, DO YOU SEE ANY PROBLEM WITH THEIR APPROACHING THE EMBASSY ABOUT A DISCUSSION (AND PERHAPS VISAS) EVEN BEFORE YOU RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE IN BUCHAREST? VANCE

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